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International Court of Justice

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Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany on 21 February 1946, 1000-1300, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

THE MARSHAL: May it please the Court, the defendant Hess will be absent until further notice, on account of illness.

GENERAL RUDENKO: I would like to report, Mr. President, that in accordance with the plan of the Soviet prosecution, which was presented to the Tribunal, and with the Tribunal's permission, we shall start to present evidence on the section of The Destruction and Plunder of Cultural and Scientific Treasures, Cultural Institutions and Institutions for Public Welfare, Monasteries, Churches, and other Religious Institutions, and also the Destruction of Cities and Villages.

The evidence along this line will be presented by State Secretary of Justice, Second Class, Raginsky.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: May it please Your Honors, among the numerous and grave war crimes committed by the Hitlerite conspirators -- crimes set out at length in the third count of the Indictment -- crimes against culture have a special place. In these crimes all the abomination and vandalism of German fascism were expressed.

The culture of the intellect and of humanity the Hitlerite conspirators regarded as an obstacle to the fulfilment of their monstrous designs against mankind; and they removed this obstacle with the cruelty typical of them. In working out their insane plans for world domination, the Hitlerite conspirators, side by side with the initiation and prosecution of predatory wars, prepared a campaign against world culture. They dreamt of putting Europe back to the time of the domination by the Huns and Teutons. They tried to turn mankind back.

It is unnecessary to quote the numerous pronouncements of the Fascist ringleaders on this subject. I shall only permit myself to refer to one pronouncement of Hitler's, quoted in Rauschning's book at page 80, which the Soviet prosecution has already presented to the Tribunal:

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"We", said Hitler, "are barbarians, and we wish to be barbarians. That is an honorable title."

On behalf of the Soviet prosecution, I will present to the Tribunal evidence of how the defendants put into practice these orders of Hitler, which found concrete expression in the wrecking of cultural institutions, the looting and destruction of cultural treasures, and the choking of the national cultural life of the peoples of the territories which were temporarily occupied by the German armies, the territories of the USSR, of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.

I shall present to the Tribunal evidence of how the Hitlerites prepared and planned, in advance, the looting of cultural treasures, of how, long before the treacherous attack on the USSR, the so-called Einsatzstab Rosenberg prepared for pillage, of how the predatory activity of the defendant Rosenberg was coordinated with Goering, Heydrich, and the Supreme Command, and of how this pillage was disguised.

It has nowbecome generally known to what monstrous lies and provocations the Hitlerites had recourse to camouflage their crimes. While exterminating millions of people in the extermination camps they had set up, they spoke, in their orders, of "filtration" and "cleaning out." While destroying and plundering cultural treasures, the fascist vandals hid behind the "collection of materials" and the "study of problems", and shamelessly called themselves the "bearers of culture".

The Hitlerite conspirators tried to turn the peoples of the territories they seized into serfs without any rights, and, for this purpose, destroyed the national culture of these peoples.

The destruction of the national culture of the Slavonic peoples and the Germanization of the peoples followed the Germanoccupation with the same criminal regularity as did pillage, rape, arson, and mass murders.

I omit, Mr. President, part 3 and part 4 of my presentation, and I pass to Section 2, at page 5 of my presentation.

As I have already indicated, the annihilation of the national culture of the peoples of the occupied territories was an organic part of the general plan of the Hitlerite conspirators to set up world domination. It is

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difficult to determine which dominated in these plans, destruction or plunder. But there is no doubt of the fact that both the plunder and the destruction were aimed at one goal, which was annihilation; and this annihilation was carried out everywhere, in all the territories occupied by the Germans and on a vast scale.

Article 56 of the Hague Convention laid down:

"The property of municipalities, that of institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sciences, even when it belongs to the State, shall be treated as private property. All seizure of, destructi or wilful damage done to institutions of this character, historic monuments, works of art and science, is forbidden and should be made the subject of legal proceedigs."

The Hitlerites systematically and consciously scoffed at the principles and demands laid down in Article 56. All the conspirators are guilty of this, and in the first place the defendant Rosenberg. Rosenberg had an organizatior with widespread ramifications for the plunder of cultural treasures, numerous staffs and representatives.

The Einsatzstab Rosenberg, and Rosenberg's Chief of Staff, Utikal, were the center where all threads met, a center which coordinated the criminal activity of many predatory organizations, inspired and directed by the Hitlerite Government and the German Supreme Command. Rosenberg was officiall put in charge of plundering the cultural treasures in the occupied territories by a decree of Hitler of the 1st of March, 1942.

I have in mind document No. 149-PS, presented to the Tribunal on the 18th of December, 1945, by the American Delegation, and accepted by the Tribunal as USA 369. With your permission, Mr. President, I shall quote only two paragraphs in this document. You will find this document on page 3 of the document book. I quote:

"His--Rosenberg's--Einsatzstab for the occupied territories has the right to explore libraries, archives, and other cultural establishments of all kinds for suitable material, and to confiscate such material for the ideological tasks of the National Socialist Party."

I omit oneparagraph and quote the last paragraph:

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"The regulations for the execution of this task, with the cooperation of the armed forces, will be issued by the Chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces, in agreement with Reichsleiter Rosenberg. If necessary, measures for the Eastern Territories under German administration will be taken by Reichsleiter Rosenberg in his capacity as Reich Minister for Occupied Eastern Territories."

This decree of Hitler's was sent out, as is clear from the document quoted, to all departments of the armed forces, the Party, and the Government. But it is not the 1st of March, 1942, which should be considered the beginning of Rosenberg's predatory activities. In confirmation of this, I shall cite several excerpts from a letter of Rosenberg to Reich Minister Bormann. The letter is dated the 23rd of April, 1941. This document was presented to the Tribunal on the 18th of December, 1945, by the American Delegation, and it was accepted by the Tribunal as USA Exhibit No. 371.

This document--which you members of the Tribunal will find on page 4 in the document file--is interesting for the fact that the plunder, entitled "confiscation" in the letter, was carried out by the defendant Rosenberg in close collaboration and contact, on the basis of a written agreement of Rosenberg's department with Himmler's department.

I cite extracts from page 1 of the Russian translation of this letter; and this is very brief.

"I have", wrote Rosenberg, "transmitted to you a photostatic copy of my agreement with the Security Service, SD, which was reached with the express approval of Gruppenfuehrer Heydrich."

And further--you will find this on page 5 in your document book:

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"Art objects have always been treated as a second-line problem. In the first-line problem, an order of the Chief of the High Command, OKW, on the instigation of the Fuehrer, has gone twice to the occupied territories of the West to place all scientific and archive materials of ideological opponents of the regime at my disposal for research purposes. That has also resulted in close co-operation on the widest scale with the Security Service, SD, and the military commanders."

The importance which the Hitlerite conspirators attached to Rosenberg's predatory staffs is shown by a special circular of Goering's of the 1st of May, 1941, to all Party, Government and military institutions, which were ordered to co-operate with Rosenberg's Einsatz staffs. This document was presented to the Tribunal on the 28th of December, 1945, by our American colleagues, and it was accepted by the Court as USA Exhibit 384.

The scale of the pillage was already vast at this time. As Rosenberg indicates in his letter of the 23rd of April, 1941, by that time--that is by April 1941 -- 7000 cases of looted works of art had already been sent to Germany.

To conclude with this document, with your permission, I shall quote one more paragraph. You will find this paragraph on page 6 of the document book; it is the paragraph before the last.

"The things," wrote Rosenberg, "are thus clarified in a practical fashion and the work has taken its course. What I asked was only a confirmation that the already pronounced decisions for the West should also have validity under the given circumstances for other occupied or to be occupied areas."

This document, in which pillage is called "work," demonstrates that Rosenberg's criminal activity was carried out in close contact with the SD and the German Command of the Armed Forces and, finally, that as early as April 1941 plans for plundering the territories about to be occupied were being elaborated.

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After the speech of the Chief Prosecutor for the USSR, General Rudenko, and after the speech of the representative of the United States Prosecution, Mr. Alderman, it is known what "territories about to be occupied" meant at this period in Rosenberg's letter. This was the period of the practical realization of the criminal ideas of the Hitlerites, planned in the so-called Plan Barbarosa. This was the period of the swift transfer of the German Fascist hordes to the frontiers of the Soviet Union. This was the period of the attack on the USSR.

It is necessary to point out, finally, that in April 1941 the Defendant Rosenberg placed Utikal at the head of all operational staffs, "the creation of which may become necessary during the course of this war." In this connection Rosenberg referred to the "successful work" of his operational staff in the Western occupied territories and the Netherlands, and to the experience gained there. This fact is confirmed by a certificate issued to Utikal, dated the 1st of April, 1941, and signed by Rosenberg.

The authenticity of this document--which bears the number 143-PS--was confirmed by Rosenberg at his interrogation on the 26th of September, 1945. I present this document to the Tribunal as USSR-371.

In reporting on the organization of the looting and destruction of cultural treasures, it is necessary to pause at yet one more department which combined diplomacy with pillage. I have in mind the German Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Chief Prosecutor for the USSR in his introductory speech showed that the general pillage in the occupied regions of the USSR, carried out on the direct orders of the German Government, was directed not only by the Defendants Goering and Rosenberg and the various staffs subordinated to them. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, headed by the Defendant Ribbentrop, also participated in this via a special formation.

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The creation of such an organization or formation--the so-called "Ribbentrop Battalion"--and its practical activity in the plunder of cultural treasures on the territory of the USSR, are testified to in his written testimony of the 10th of November, 1942, by Obersturmfuehrer Dr. Forster, who was taken prisoner by units of the Red Army in the Mozdok region. That is in Northern Caucasia. In his testimony Forster also indicated the tasks of Rosenberg's staff in the plunder, or, as he expressed it, in the confiscation of museum treasures and antiques.

A certified photostat of this affidavit is presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit number 157.

In his affidavit Forster stated:

"In August 1941, during my stay in Berlin, I, with the help of my old acquaintance from Berlin University, Dr. Focke, who was employed in the press section of the Foreign Office, was transferred from the 87th Panzerjaeger Tank Destroyers, to the Special Purpose Battalion, which was attached to the Foreign Office. This Battalion had been activated on the initiation of the Reich Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ribbentrop, and was under his direction.

"The leader of the Battalion is Major of the Waffen SS von Kuensberg.

"The task of the Special Purpose Battalion was to ship to Germany cultural valuables and objects of great historical value immediately after the fall of large cities, their confiscation and securing, and the selection of valuable books and films.

"The Special Purpose Battalion consists of four companies. The first company is attached to the German Expeditionary Corps in Africa; the second company is attached to the Army Group North; the third company is attached to the Army Group Center and the fourth company to the Army Group South. The first company is located at present in Italy, in Naples, where the company is anticipating the possibility of being ferried over to Africa.

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"The battalion headquarters are located in Berlin, Hermann Goering Strasse, No. 6.

"The confiscated material is stored in the offices of the Adler firm, Herdenbergstrasse.

"Prior to our departure for Russia, Major von Kuensberg transmitted to us Ribbentrop's order to comb out painstakingly all scientific establishments, institutions, libraries and all palaces, to search all archives, and to put our hands on everything, or to confiscate everything of important value.

"It has become known to me, from report by my comrades, that the second company of my battalion has confiscated many valuable objects in the palaces in the suburbs of Leningrad. I myself was not there at the time. At Zarskoje Selo the company confiscated and secured the contents of the large palace museum of the Empress Katherine. Chinese silk rugs and gilt were torn from the walls. The foyer, which was supplied with artistic ornaments, was dismantled and they were taken away. From the Emperor Alexander Palace antique furniture and a large library, containing approximately six to seven thousand volumes in the French language and over 5000 volumes and manuscripts in Russian, were removed."

You will find this in the same document, on page 10 in the document file:

"The fourth company, to which I was attached, confiscated in Kiev the exhibit at the laboratory of the medical-scientific research institute. The entire equipment, scientific material, documents and books, were shipped to Germany. We reaped a rich harvest in the library of the Ukrainian Academy for Science, where the greatest rare manuscripts in Persian, Abyssinian and Chinese culture, Russian and Ukrainian chronicles, the first editions of books by the first Russian printer, Ivan Fjodorow, and rare editions of volumes by Schewtschenko, Mizkiewitsch and Ivan Franko were kept.

"From the museum at Kiev articles of Ukrainian art, Russian art, Western and Eastern, from the central museums at Schatyenko, were

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"From the museum at Kiev articles of Ukrainian art, Russian art, Western and Eastern, from the central museums at Schatyenko, were

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shipped to Berlin. Among them there were pictures, etchings and portraits, works of art and pictures

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by Wereschtschagin, Fjedotov, Goe, sculpture of Antokolksi, and other works of Russian and Ukrainian painters and sculptors.

"In Kharkov, in the Korolenko Library, there were seized and shipped to Berlin several thousand expensive books in very handsome editions. The rest of the books were destroyed. From the Kharkov picture gallery several hundred pictures were secured, among them 14 pictures by Aiwasowski, works by von Ruepin, many works by Polienow, Schischkin, and others. Also, all statues and the whole scientific archives of the museum were taken away. Embroidery, carpets, gobelins, and other exhibits were appropriated by the German soldiers."

Again, this is mentioned by Dr. Forster in his affidavit:

"I also knew that the staff of Alfred Roseberg used special commandos for the confiscation of expensive antique museum pieces in the occupied territories of the East, and in the countries of Europe. Expert civilians were in charge of these commandos.

"After the occupation of a big city, leaders of these commandos arrive in the company of experts of every art. They inspect museums, pictures, galleries, exhibits, institutions of culture and art; they inspect their condition and confiscate everything of value."

I thus conclude the quotation; I omit the last paragraph of this affidavit.

With your permission, Your Honors, I shall read two more excerpts from a letter of the Reich Minister for the Occupied Territories dated April 7, 1942, and signed, by order of the Minister, by Laibrandt, the defendant Rosenberg's closest assistant.

This letter is in your document book on pages 12 and 13. The document was presented on the 18th of December of last year by the American prosecution.

This document is very revealing from the point of view of the scale of the pillage planned, and from the point of view of the camouflaging of this pillage, which, in the document, is shamelessly called "the preservation of objects of culture, research material, and scientific institutions in the Eastern Occupied Territories."

This document is also characteristic, owing to the fact that Rosenberg, fearing that he might miss some loot, established his own monopolistic right to plunder and compromised only with the Quartermaster General of the Army, in

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conjuction with whom -- as the letter shows -- Rosenberg's operational staff carried on its work.

I read the first excerpt:

"I have assigned Reichsleiter Rosenberg's Einsatzstab for the Occupied Territories with the seizure and uniform handling of cultural goods, research material and scientific apparatus from libraries, archives, scientific institutions, museums, etc., which are found in public, religious, and private buildings. The Einsatzstab, as once again directed by the Fuehrer's decree of March 1, 1942, begins its work, together with the Quartermaster General of the Army, immediately after occupation of the territories by combat troops, and carries out this activity after the civil government has been organized, in accordance with the corresponding civilian officials.

"I request all authorities of my administration to support, as far as possible, the members of the Einsatzstab in carrying out all measures and in giving all necessary orders, especially in regard to objects which may have already been seized from the occupied Eastern territories and removed from thei previous location, and information as to where this material is located at the present time."

As you see, Your Honors, the looting of libraries, archives, scientific research institutes, museums, both public and private, and even church treasure was being planned.

The fact that it is a question not of preserving cultural treasures, but of plunder, can be seen from the following excerpt from the letter mentioned. You will find it on page 12 of your document book, Your Honors. I quote:

"In so far as seizures or transports have already taken place contrary to these provisions, Reichsleiter Rosenberg's Einsatzstab, Berlin, Charlottenburg 2, Bismarckstrasse 1, will be informed without delay."

I shall not trouble your attention by enumerating the numerous addresses t which this letter was distributed. I shall mention some of them: The OKH, the Ministry for Economy, the Plenipotentiary for the Four-Year Plan, the Reich Commissars for the Baltic Regions and the Ukraine, etc.

Thus this document confirms once more that both Goering, Funk and represen tives of the OKW took an active part in the pillage.

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The very valuable works of art plundered in the occupied countries were removed to Germany, which was turned by the Hitlerites into a robber's den.

The Extraordinary State Commission established that in January 1942 the Commander of the First Tank Army, Cavalry General Mackensen, in the presence of the head of the Propaganda Department of the First Tank Army, Miller, took from the Rostov Museum of Pictorial and Plastic Art, which had been evacuated to the town of Pyatigorsk and which was then on the premises of the Lermontov Museum, the most caluable canvasses of Riberio, Rubens, Murillo, Jordans, Vereshiagin, Korovia, Kramskey, Polenov, Repin, Lageric, Ayvasovsky and Shishkin, sculptures of Danatello and other exhibits.

This statement of the Extraordinary State Commission has already been presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit Number 37. With your permission I should like to read into the record one paragraph on page five of this document.

"The Art Museum of Rostov had been plundered and evacuated to Germany by the Commander of the First Tank Army, General Mackensen and by the Chief of the Propaganda Section of the First Tank Army, Miller."

From the affidavit of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, Stefan Kurovsky, it has been established that the defendant Frank, in looting the cultural treasures of the Polish State, was also striving after his personal gai

Pictures, porcelain, and other works of art from the plundered museums of Warsaw and Cracow, particularly from the Vavel Castle, were transferred to the Defendant Frank's estate.

The affidavit, to which I am referring, is an appendix to the report of the Polish Government and is presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit Number 302. (It appears on pages 19-20 of the document book).

In the document which is identified as 055-PS, which is a letter from the "Head of the Fourth Political Leadership Group of the Reich Ministry for the Eastern Occupied Territories", dated September 14, 1944, are indications as to where the looted treasures were taken and stored.

This letter is addressed to the "Herr Reich Minister; copy to the head of the political leadership staff", and is headed "Objects of Art Evacuated from Ukraine." (It appears in the document book on page 21).

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I present this letter as documentary evidence and submit it as USSR Exhibit Number 372 and I quote the text:

"The Reichscommissioner for Ukraine has stored the objects of art and pictures evacuated from Kiev and Kharkov, in the following shelters in East Prussia:

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"1. Estate Richau by Wehlau.

"2. Manor-house, Wildenhoff (owner Count Schwerin).

I read further from the text:

"There are sixty-five cases of the contents of which an exact list is enclosed. For about twenty other cases, fifty-seven portfolios and one roll of engravings no inventories exist up to now. Among the pictures there are a great number of very ancient icons, works of famous masters of the German, Italian and Dutch schools in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the works of the best Russian masters from the 18th and 19th centuries.

"All this property is made up of the most valuable works of art, which were shipped from the public Ukrainian museums, which are worth, even as a rough estimate, the sum of many millions. Besides, this ia a unique collection of such international value now on German territory."

I omit the last paragraph of this letter since it really does not have great meaning to the present subject.

On this subject I quote also an extract from page 2 of a letter from Rosenberg to Bormann. You will find it on page 5 in your document book.

Rosenberg wrote, and I quote:

"In the process of these confiscations we have, of course, found also many other works of art. There are some of great value and, in order to preserve them, the Chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces, at my request and in accordance with Fuehrer's directives, ordered me to draw up a catalogue of these works of art and to keep them for the Fuehrer."

You have heard, your Honors, how other property, how works of art in occupied territories, how all this was treated personally by Hitler.

This episode is found in the Czechoslovak Government report, which was presented to the Tribunal and excerpts from this report were read yesterday into the record. Therefore, I consider there is no necessity for reading it into the record once again. However, it is necessary to note that not only Hitler but Goering was an ardent adherent of the policy of acquisitions.

You also heard, your Honors, yesterday how Goering acquired valuable Gobelins in France. Goering did not acquire only Gobelins. He wrote in one of his letters to Rosenberg, -- and I refer to Document Number 1985-PS, which I submit to the Tribunal as Exhibit Number 373 and this document is in your document book on page 156 and 158 -- Goering wrote that he "owned through purchases and exchange,

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presents, last will and testaments perhaps the most important private collection, at least in Germany if not in Europe."

The document which is presented is a copy of a typewritten letter and includes a series of corrections and notes done in ink, evidently in Goering's hand. This copy was captured, together with other correspondence of Goering's, by units of the American Army, of which fact the American Prosecution presented a suitable affidavit to the Tribunal.

The document, your Honors, reveals to a remarkable extent the nature of the acquisitions effected by Goering and also confirms Ribbentrop's part in the "preservation" of cultural treasures in the occupied territories.

For this reason, with your permission, I shall read a few extracts from this document. I read the extract from the first page of this letter:

"After great search, I was very much gratified that at last a place was created for collecting the things, although I want to point out that still other places are falling back upon the authority of the Fuehrer; above all the Reichsminister of Foreign Affairs, who, several months ago, sent a circular to all departments, in which he, among other things, stated that he had received full authority for the preservation of the cultural objects in occupied territories."

And further on; I read an extract from page 2 of the letter, the last paragraph:

"So that no wrong conception could arise regarding these things which I want to claim myself, and which I have partly acquired by purchase and partly intended to acquire, I want to inform you as follows:

"1. I possess today already through purchase and exchange, presents, last will and testaments, perhaps the most important private collection, at least in Germany if not in Europe."

I omit one paragraph and I read the next one. In paragraph two is listed what Goering would like to acquire.

"2. A very extensive and highly valued collection of Dutchmen from the 17th century.

"3. A comparatively small but very good collection of French artists from the 18th century, and finally, a collection of Italian masters."

You have heard, your Honors, how "the personal material interest of the soldiers in the war" was in practice expressed. All this establishes irrevocably

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that the Hitlerites engaged in pillage and brigandage, and that everyone plundered, starting from the privates and ending with the criminal leaders of Hitlerite Germany.

The same must be said with regard to the destruction of cultural treasures as well.

Decrees and directives regarding the destruction of cultural treasures came from the leaders of Hitlerite Germany and from the highest ranks of the Command of the Armed Forces.

I shall quote as evidence the order of the Commander of the German Sixth Army, signed by Field Marshal von Reichenau, approved by Hitler and entitled, "Regarding the behavious of the troops in the East."

This decree was presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit Number 12 and contains direct instructions, undisguised by anything in the manner customary to the Hitlerites; for the destruction and annihilation of culture in the occupied territories.

With your permission, I shall quote one paragraph of this decree. You will find it on page 16.

"The Army is only interested in the work of extinguishing fires insofar as necessary army billets must be preserved. For the rest, it is part of the battle of annihilation. No regard for history or art matters in the eastern area."

I shall quote another document which establishes that the destruction and pillage of cultural treasures was universally carried out by the Hitlerites in the territories occupied by them and was inspired and directed by the Hitlerite Government. I refer to the diary of the defendant Frank, extracts of which have already been submitted to the Tribunal, as Document USSR Exhibit Number 223. In the first volume of Frank's diary, on page 38 (page 169 in your document book) there appears an entry dated 4 October, 1939, with the following text:

"Berlin. Conference with Fuehrer. The Fuehrer discussed general situation with the Governor-General. He declared himself satisfied with his activity in Poland as regards, in particular, the destruction of the Warsaw Palace and non-restoration of this City, and the evacuation of treasures."

I consider that the documents which have just been submitted and quoted are quite sufficient to enable us to draw the following conclusions:

(a) The pillage and destruction of the cultural treasures of the peoples in the territories occupied by the Germans took place in accordance with previously worked out, carefully prepared plans.

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(b) The pillage and destruction of cultural treasures was directed by the Fascist Government and German High Command.

(c) The most active part in the organization of the pillage and destruction of cultural treasures was taken by the participants in the conspiracy, the defendants Rosenberg, Ribbentrop, Frank and Goering.

I pass on to the next section of my presentation, entitled:

"Destruction and Pillage of Cultural Treasures in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia."

I reported to the Tribunal on the general plans of the Hitlerite conspirators for strangling national cultural life in the countries occupied by them.

(I omit the end of page 19 of my presentation)

I am now passing on to the report concerning the Hitlerite conspirators putting their criminal plans concretely into practice in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

I will deal only with incontrovertible proofs, consisting of the official reports of the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia, already submitted to the Tribunal by the Soviet Prosecution.

I shall read into the record a few parts of the relevant sections of these reports which directly concern the theme expounded by me and which have not been quoted by my colleagues.

I begin to quote extracts from the Czechoslovak Government reports. These excerpts are to be found in your book of documents on pages 81 to 88. I quote from page 81:

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"DESTRUCTION OF CZECH CULTURAL LIFE.

"Extermination of the Czech Intelligentsia.

"K.H. FRANK, who was appointed Secretary of State and deputy to the Reich Protector NEURATH in March 1939 and in August 1943 became Staatsminister and the Head of the German Executive in the Protectorate, said: The Czechs are only fit to be used as workers and peasants.

"K.H. FRANK replied to a Czech delegation which requested in 1942 the Czech universities and colleges be re-opened: If the war will be won by England, you will open your schools yourselves; if Germany wins an elementary school with five grades willbe enough for you!

"The Germans occupied all colleges and scientific institutions."

I pass on to page 83 of the document book:

"They immediately seized the valuable apparatus, instruments and scientific equipment in many of the occupied institutions. The scientific libraries were systematically and methodically spoliated. Scientific books and films were torn up or taken away, the archives of the Academic Senate (the Highest University Authority) were torn up or burned, the card-indexes destroyed or scattered.

"Suppression of Czech Schools.

"K.H. FRANK, in November 1939, personally ordered the closing for a period of three years, of all Czech establishments of higher education.

"The University students, who were still at liberty, were forbidden to exercise an intellectual profession and were invited to find manual occupation within 48 hours, failing which they would be sent to labor camps to Germany.

"The closing of the universities was aggravated by the closing of the great scientific libraries and of all institutions capable of offering intellectual sustenance to the students who had been expelled from the universities. The library of the University of Prague was henceforth accessible only to Germans.

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"Suppression of Scientific Life.

"The closing down of Czech universities and colleges was merely the first step towards the complete suppression of the whole Czech scientific life. Czech university professors were either pensioned or transferred to functions which made scientific work impossible; the buildings of scientific institutions were handed over either to German universities and colleges or to German military and civil authorities. The Germans removed all scientific instruments and books and even complete laboratories to Germany, saying that the Czechs would no longer need them. The numbers of works of art, pictures, statues and rare manuscripts stolen from Prague University Library and from private collections cannot be calculated, nor their value estimated. Scientific collections were also given to German schools provided they were not stolen piecemeal."

I pass on to the excerpts on page 86 of the document book.

"Hundreds of Czech elementary and secondary schools were closed in 1939, and so rapid was the systematic closing of Czech schools during the first year of the war that by the end of 1940 6,000 of the 20,000 Czech teachers were unemployed. In September 1942 about 60 per cent of the Czech elementary schools were shut down by the Germans.

"All Czech books published during the Republican regime have been confiscated, and glorification of Greater Germany and its Fuehrer became the basis of all teaching at Czech elementary schools.

"In 1939 the number of pupils permitted to enter Czech secondary schools had diminished by 60 per cent compared with 1936. About 70 per cent of the Czech secondary schools had been closed up to the end of 1942. Girls have been entirely excluded from the secondary schools.

"Nursery schools for children between 3 and 6 were completely Germanised and employed only German teachers.

"Other Cultural Crimes.

"Monuments.

"In many towns the "Masary Houses", which for the most part contain libraries, halls for the showing of educational films, for the performance

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of plays and concerts have been confiscated and transformed into barracks or offices for the Gestapo. The statues they contained, sometimes of great artistic value, were defiled and broken and in most cases completely demolished, especially those of Masaryk or those recalling the exploits of the Czechoslov volunteers during the Great War. A number of monuments in Prague, among them Bilek's "Moses" and Maratka's "Memorial to the Fallen Legionaries" have been melted down.

"A decree of the Autumn of 1942 ordered all university libraries to hand over all early printed Czech works and first editions to the Germans. The collections in the National Museum were pillaged and the Modern Art Gallery, containing a unique collection of Czech art of the 19th and 20th centuries with some precious specimens of foreign (mainly French) art, was closed.

"The crown jewels of the ancient Czech Kings had to be handed over to HEYDRICH.

"Translation of works of English, French and Russian authors, classic and modern, were withdrawn from circulation. The severest censorship was applied to the works of living Czech authors. The Germans liquidated many progressive publishing firms.

"All political literature of the Free Republic, as well, as the works of the Czech participants in the Czech Renaissance of the 18th and 19th centuries were withdrawn.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal will adjourn.

(A short recess was taken)

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"All political literature of the Republic, as well as the works of the Czech participants in the Renaissance of the 18th and 19th centuries, were withdrawn. All Jewish literature was also prohibited, as well as that by writers who were politically unreliable. The Germans withdrew the Czech classics, as well as the works of John Huss, the 15th century reformer Alois Krassek, the author of historical novels, the poet Victor Dieck, and others."

Thus the Hitlerites methodically destroyed the national culture of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, plundered and pillaged works of art, literature and science.

In Poland, as in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, the German fascist usurpers carried out the large-scale liquidation of national culture with exceptional cruelty. The Hitlerite conspirators destroyed the Polish intelligentsia, closed educational establishments, prohibited the publication of Polish books, looted works of art, and blew up and burnt national monuments.

I read into the record relevant extracts from the Polish Government report, which was submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 93. These excerpts are on page 197 of the document book:

"The Annihilation of the Polish Intelligentsia.

"In the incorporated regions, the intelligentsia were deprived of all means of living. Many of them -- professors, teachers, lawyers and judges -- were interned in concentration camps or murdered.

"In the Government General about 80 percent of the intelligentsia were deprived of all means of existence. Journalists and writers were unable to earn a living, owing to the liquidation of the press. The publication of new books was prohibited.

"Four universities and twelve schools of the university type ceased to exist. Their average attendance before September 1939 reached 45,000 students.

"Secondary schools: In the territory occupied by the Germans, there were about 550 secondary schools. Their closing was ordered in the incorporated territories. They were closed completely. In the Government General they were allowed to continue their activity, but in November 1939 an order was issued to cease teaching. The only schools which were allowed to continue

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work were commercial or industrial schools. Educated Poles were not needed; the Poles were to become artisans and workmen. Such was the official line of German policy.

"Elementary schools: In the incorporated territories, Polish schools were completely abolished. They were replaced by German schools. Polish children were educated in the German tongue and German spirit."

On the eve of war there were about 2,000 periodicals published in Poland, among them 170 newspapers. By order of the Germans the press was practically entirely eradicated.

The publication, printing and disposal of Polish books was prohibited as early as October 1939.

On the 5th of November, 1940, the German "Verordnungsblatt" published the following decree:

"Until this order is countermanded, the publication of all books, pamphlets, periodicals, journals, calendars and music, without exception, is prohibited, with the exception of those published by the authorities of the Government General."

Theatres, Music and Radio: The principles of German policy in Poland were outlined in a circular of a special branch of National Education and Propaganda in the German Government General. It read as follows:

"It is understood that not a single German official will assist in the development of Polish cultural life in any way whatsoever."

The sole purpose which was to be followed, in the words of the circular, was to satisfy the elementary demands for entertainment and amusement, all the more so as this was a question of diverting the attention of the intellectual circles from political dissension and debates which encouraged the development of anti-German feeling.

I skip the last paragraph and pass on to the next page.

Looting, Spoliation and Destruction of Works of Art, Libraries and Collections: The extracts are on page 207 and 208 of the document book.

On the 13th of December 1939 Gauleiter Wartholland issued an order

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that all public and private libraries and collections in the occupied territories were to be registered. Upon completion of registration, libraries and book collections were confiscated and transported to the "Buchsammelstelle." There "special experts" carried out a selection. The final destination was either Berlin or the newly constituted State Library (Staatsbibiothek) in Poznan. Books which were considered unsuitable were sold, destroyed or thrown away as waste paper.

The best and largest libraries of the country fell victims to organized looting in the Government General. Among them were the university libraries in Cracow and Warsaw. One of the best, though not one of the largest, was the library of the Polish Parliament. It consisted of about 38,000 volumes and 3,500 periodical publications. On the 15th and 16th of November, 1939, the main part of this library was transported to Berlin and Breslau. Ancient documents, such as, for instance, a collection of parchments which were the property of the Central Archives, were also seized.

The Diocesan Archives in Pelyilin, which contained 12th century documents, were burnt in the furnaces of a sugar refinery.

Among the first art treasures removed from Poland was the well known Altar of Wit Stosz from the Cracow Cathedral. On the 16th of December, 1939, the Defendant Frank issued a decree concerning the confiscation of works of art.

I skip a few paragraphs and pass on to the last paragraph on page 221 of the document book.

Three valuable pictures were removed from the galleries of the Czartoryski in Soniava. Frank seized and kept them until the 17th of January 1945, and then transferred them to Silesia, and thence as his personal property to Bavaria.

"National Monuments: In the process of destroying everything that was connected with Polish history and culture, many monuments and works of art were destroyed and demolished.

The monument of the honored Polish King Bolislav Chrobry in Gniezno was first wound round with ropes and chains with a view to throwing it off its pedestal. After an unsuccessful attempt, acetylene was used. The head was cut

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off and the pedestal broken to pieces.

The monument of the Sacred Heart in Poznan, the monuments of Chopin, the poet Slovacki, the composer Moniuszko, the Polish national her Koscinsko and President Wilson, of the greatest of Polish poets, Mickiewiez, and many others.

The report of the Polish Government contains an appendix, a list of public libraries and other collections which fell victim to plunder and spoliation. These materials are available on page 254 and 255 of the document book. In the first list we find the names of thirty libraries; and, in the second, 21 museums and collections of works of art which were plundered and destroyed. I will not read these lists in full, but will mention only some of the museums and collections which were the subject of national pride and constituted the treasure of the Polish State.

The following objects fell victim to the German vandals:

The treasure house of Vavelsky cathedral in Cracow; the Pototzky Collection in Yablonnia; the Tchartoryssky Museum in Cracow; the National Museum in Cracow; the museum of religious art in Warsaw; the collections of Zamoysky in Warsaw (parchments, books and manuscripts); the State numcismatic collections in Warsaw; the Palace of King Stanislav-August in the Lazenkovsky Park; the Palace of King Jan Sobiesky in Vilianovo; the collection of Count Tarnovsky in Sukhaya; the Uligians Museum in Poznan; and many others.

The Hitlerite usurpers also plundered monasteries, churches and cathedrals.

On page 43 of the report of the Polish Government, which corresponds to page 223 of the document book, there are included the notes of the Polish Primate, the Cardinal Glond. They concern a written communication from Cardinal Glond to Pope Pius XII. I shall read only two paragraphs of these concluding notes into the record:

"Monasteries and convents have been methodically suppressed, as well as their flourishing works of education, publicity, social welfare, charity and care of the sick. Their houses and their institutions have been seized by the

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army of the Nazi Party.

"The invaders have confiscated or sequestrated the patrimony of the Church, considering themselves as its masters. The cathedrals, the bishops' palaces, the seminaries, the canons' residences, the revenues and endowments of bishoprics and chapters, the funds of the curias and seminaries, all have been pillaged by the invaders."

I pass on to page 30.

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Yugoslavia.

The destruction of the national culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia was carried out by the Hitlerites by various means and methods. I shall not, gentlemen, enumerate them in full. These methods are already known.

In Yugoslavia the same thing occurred as had already occurred in Poland and Czechoslovakia. We need only stress that in the destruction of the culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia the German Fascist occupants showed great ingenuity and utilized their vast experiences acquired in other countries occupied by them.

The system of destruction of the national culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia starts with attack and pillage and ends with mass murders, camps and crematoria ovens.

In the report of the Yugoslav Government, presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 36, there are quoted a large number of facts and documents which establish, without the possibility of contention, the crimin deeds of the defendants. But even these numerous facts which are q.oted in the report do not exhaust all the crimes committed by the Hitleri es. The report of the Yugoslav Government quotes only typical cases as examples. I will quote some excerpts from the report of the Yugoslav Government. These excerpts are on page 303 of the document book.

"Immediately after the invasion of Slovenia, the Germans started to fulfil their plans, which had been thought out long beforehand, with a view to germanizing the occupied territories."

Further, on page 307 of the document book:

"The occupants shut all the schools in Slovenia, exiled all Slovene teachers, destroyed all Slovene libraries and books, and forbade the use of the Slovene language, the use of which was considered an act of sabotage."

The German barbarians destroyed and plundered not only schools and libraries; they also destroyed universities and broadcasting stations, palaces of culture and sanatoria. On page 23 of the report, which corresponds to page 278 of the document book, there are, by way of example,

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a few facts concerning Belgrade:

"Without any military need, the Germans destroyed maliciously and burned a great number of public buildings and cultural institutions, such as the new university, the People's University "Koloraz", the first gymnasium for boys, the second gymnasium for girls, the ancient royal palace, the broadcasting station, the Russian Home of Culture, the sanatorium of Dr. Jivkovich, and so on. In the university building valuable objects and a very valuable collection of scientific research matter were destroyed."

As is established by the report of the Yugoslav State Commission, which is USSR Document 364, page 313a of the document book, the Hitlerites razed to the ground the national library, and burned hundreds of thousands of books and manuscripts, the basic stock of Serbian culture. They completely destroyed 71 and partially destroyed 41 scientific institutes and laboratories of the Belgrade University. They razed to the ground the State Academy of Art, and they burned and looted thousands of schools.

Gentlemen, during the four years of the German domination of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav proples experienced great sufferings and sorrow. The Germans looted the country's economy, causing great material damage. But the damage caused by them to the culture of the peoples of Yugoslavia is even vaster still.

In concluding this chapter of my report, I consider it indispensable, gentlemen, to quote yet another excerpt from the diary of the defendant Frank. I have in mind the calico-bound volume of the diary entitled "Conferences of the Leaders of Departments of 1939-1940", which contains an entry regarding the conference of the leaders of departments on 19 January 1940 in Cracow. This excerpt is on page 169 of the document book;

"On the 15th of September 1939, I was entrusted with the administration of the occupied Eastern territories, and received a special order to devastate this district pitilessly as a combat zone and a prize of war, and to reduce its economic, social, and political structure to a heap of ruins."

To this statement of Frank's, one need only add that the defendant

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Frank performed this task in Poland with all zeal, and the other Reich Gauleiters and other leiters acted similarly in the occupied territories of the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

The destruction and spoliation of cultural treasures in the USSR.

I am now going to present, your Honors, proof of crimes committed by the defendants against the culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

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We have heard here in court with what violence and on what a vast scale the Hitlerites conducted the destruction and spoliation of the cultural wealth of the peoples of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia. The crimes perpetrated by the Hitlerite conspirators in the occupied territories of the USSR were still more grave.

The criminal gang called the Hitler Government aimed not only to plunder the people of the Soviet Union, to destroy towns and villages created by them, and to extirpate the culture of the peoples of the USSR, but also to enslave the Soviet peoples and to transform our mother country into a colony enslaved by the Fascists.

In the second part of my statement, I gave proof of how there was planned and perpetrated the destruction of the cultural monuments of the peoples of the USSR. In the note of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs V.M. Molotov, dated the 27th of April 1942, which was presented to the Tribunal as Document USSR Exhibit 51/3, documents and facts are quoted which establish beyond dispute that the destruction of historic and cultural monuments and the vile mockery of national feelings, beliefs, and convictions, constituted a part of the monstrous plan thought out and put into practice by the Hitlerite Government, which strove to liquidate the national culture of the peoples of the USSR.

Later I shall refer again to this document, but at present I wish to read into the record the following excerpt which is on page 321 of the document book. I skip the first paragraph and quote the second paragraph:

"The destruction of historical and cultural memorials in occupied Soviet territories, and the devastation of the numerous cultural establishments set up by the Soviet authorities are a part of the monstrously senseless plan conceived and pursued by the Hitlerite Government which strives to wipe out Russian national culture and the national cultures of the peoples of the Soviet Union, to forcibly germanize the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Esthonian, and other peoples of the USSR.

"In order No. 0973/41, General Hodt, commander of the 17th German Army, demands that his subordinates thoroughly assimilate the misanthropic notion,

so typical of the thick-skulled Fascists, that the 'sound feelings of vengeance and revulsion towards allthat is Russian must not be suppressed among the men, but, on the contrary, encouraged in every way.'

"True to their custom of destroying universally acknowledged cultural values, the Hitlerites everywhere on the Soviet territory occupied by them devastated and largely burned down book depositories, from small club and school libraries to the most valuable collections of manuscripts and books, containing unique bibliographical treasures."

I skip a paragraph and continue the quotation:

"The Hitlerites looted and then set on fire the famous Borodino Museum, the historical exhibits of which related to the struggle against the Napoleonic Army in 1812, and which were particularly dear to the Russian people. The invaders looted and set fire to the Pushkin House and Museum in the hamlet of Poletnyany Zavod. In Kaluga, the Hitlerites assiduously destroyed the exhibits in the museum and house in which lived and worked the famous Russian scientist Tsiolkovsky, whose services in the field of aeronautics enjoy world-wide fame. The Fascist vandals used Tsiolkovsky's portrait as a target for revolver practice. Extremely valuable models of dirigibles, as well as drafts and instruments, were trampled underfoot. One of the museum rooms was turned into a hen roost and the furniture burned.

"One of the oldest agricultural institutions in the USSR, the Shatilov Selection Station in the Orel District, was destroyed by the invaders who blew up and consigned to the flames 55 buildings of the station, including the agro-chemical and other laboratories, the museum, the library containing 40,000 volumes, the school, and other buildings.

"Even greater frenzy was shown by the Hitlerites in the looting of the cultural institutions and the historical monuments of the Ukraine and Byelorussia."

I skip two paragraphs and pass on to the last paragraph:

"There was no limit to the desecration by the Hitlerite vandals of the monuments and homes representing Ukrainian history, culture, and art. It will suffice to mention one of the constant attempts to humiliate the national dignity of the Ukrainian people: Having plundered the Korolenko Library in Kharkov, the occupants used the books as paving bricks for the muddy street, to facilitate the passage of German motor vehicles."

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The German barbarians treated withparticular hatred those cultural monuments which were most dear to the Soviet people. I will quote several facts:

The Hitlerites plundered Vasnaja Polyana where one of the greatest writers, Leo Tolstoy, was born, lived, and worked.

They plundered and despoiled the house where the great Russian Composer Peter Tchaikowsky lived and worked. In this house Tchaikowsky created the world famous operas Eugen Onegin and Queen of Spades.

In Tanganrog, they destroyed the house where lived the great Russian writer Chekhov; in Tikhvin they destroyed the house of the great Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov.

As unquestionable evidence, I will read into the record an excerpt from the Note of Foreign Commissar Molotov, dated the 6th of January 1942. This document has already been submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 51/2. This excerpt is on page 317 of the document book.

"For a period of six weeks, the Germans occupied the world-famous property of Yasnaya Polyana where Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest geniuses of mankind, was born, where he lived, and worked. This glorious memorial to Russian culture was wrecked, profaned, and finally set on fire by the Nazi vandals. The grave of the great writer was desecrated by the invaders. Irreplaceable relics relating to the life and work of Leo Tolstoy, including rare manuscripts, books, and paintings, were either stolen by the German soldiers or thrown away and destroyed.

"A German officer named Schwartz declared, in reply to a request of one of the museum staff to stop using the personal furniture and books of the great writer for firewood and to use wood available for this purpose, 'We don't need firewood; we shall burn everything connected with the name of your Tolstoy.'

"When the town of Klin was liberated by the Soviet troops on December 15, 1941, it was ascertained that the house in which Tchaikovsky, the great Russian composer, had lived and worked, and which the Soviet State had turned into a museum, had been wrecked and plundered by Nazi officers and soldiers. In the museum building itself, the invaders set up a garage for motorcycles, heating this garage with manuscripts, books, furniture, and other museum exhibits, part of which had been stolen by the German invaders. In doing this, the Nazi officers knew perfectly well that they were defiling one of the finest monuments of Russian culture.

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"During the occupation of the town of Istra, the German troops established an ammunition dump in the celebrated ancient Russian monastery known under the name of the New Jerusalem Monastery, founded as early as 1654. The New Jerusalem Monastery was an outstanding historical and religious landmark of the Russian people, and it was known as one of the largest and most beautiful edifices of religious architecture. However, this did not prevent the German Fascist vandals from blowing up their ammunition dump in the New Jerusalem shrine on their retreat from Istra, thereby reducing this irreplaceable monument of Russian church history to a heap of ruins."

I skip the next paragraph and close this quotation.

Acting upon directions of the German Military Command, the Hitlerites destroyed and annihilated the cultural-historic monuments of the Russian people connected with the life and works of the great Russian poet Alexander Sergeivitch Pushkin.

The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission, the original copy of which is now submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 40, reads as follows:

"To preserve the cultural and historical memorials of the Russian people connected with the life and works of the great Russian poet and genius Alexander Sergeivitch Pushkin, the Soviet Government on 17 March 1922 declared the poet's estate at Michailovskoye, as well as his tomb at the monastery of Svyatogorsky, and the neighboring villages of Trigorskoye, Gorodischtsche and Woronitsch, a state reservation.

"The Pushkin Reservation, and especially the poet's estate at Michailoskoye, was very dear to the Russian people. Here Pushkin finished the third and wrote the fourth, fifth, and sixth chapters of Eugen Onegin. This is where he finished his poem The Gypsies, and wrote the drama Boris Godunov, as well as a large number of epic and lyrical poems.

"In July 1941, the Nazis forced their way into the Pushkin Reservation. For three years they lived there, ruined everything, and destroyed the Pushkin memorials."

I will skip the beginning of page 39.

"The plundering of the museum began in August 1941."

I will skip the next paragraph.

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"In the autumn of 1943 the military commander of Kushkinyovy proposed to order an evacuation of all treasures of the museum. The latter were packed into cases and loaded onto trucks and sent to Germany."

I skip the next paragraph.

"At the end of February 1944 Mikhailovskoye was turned by the Germans into a military strong point. The park was trenched and shelters were built.

"The cottage of Pushkin's nurse was demolished and the Germans constructed next to it and partly on its site a huge shelter which was covered with five layers of timber. A similar dugout was erected near the former museum.

"Prior to their retreat from Mikhailovskoye, the Germans completed their work of destruction and the desecration of the Pushkin estate. The museum which had been erected upon the foundation of the former dwelling house of Pushkin was burned down, and nothing but a pile of rubble remained. The marble plate of the Pushkin monument was destroyed and thrown on the pile of ashes. Of the other two houses in the Pushkin reservation, located at the entrance to the Mikhailovskoye estate, one was burned down by the Germans and the other severely damaged. The German vandals put three bullet holes into Pushkin's portrait, which hung in an archway at the entrance to the Mikhailovskoye Park, and then destroyed the archway.

"After their retreat, the Nazis fired on the village with mortars and artillery. The staircases leading to the River Sorot were destroyed by German mines. The old linden trees on the circular road leading to the house were damaged. One elm tree standing in front of the house was damaged by grenades and grenade splinters."

I skip the end of this page and pass on to page 41, the beginning of the page.

In the village of Voronitsch, the wooden church which dated back to Pushkin's time and in which Pushkin had a requiem sung on the 7th

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of April, 1923, to commemorate the death of the great English poet Byron was burned down.

The churchyard where Hannibal, one of Pushkin's relatives, and Rayevsky, a priest and close friend of the poet, lay buried, was criss-crossed by trenches and devastated. The graves of members of the reservation, where the Russian people saw a symbol of Pushkin, were also destroyed and mutilated.

The mockery by the Germans of the national pride of the Russian people can be justly ascertained in the desecration of Pushkin's tomb. In order to save the Pushkin memorial from destruction, the Red Army abandoned the state and retreated to Vovorzhev. Nevertheless, on the 2nd of July 1941 the Germans fired upon the monastery of Svyatiye-Gory, where Pushkin lies buried near the monastery walls. In March 1943, long before the battle line reached the territory of the Pushkin Hill, the Germans began systematically demolishing the monastery of Svyatiye-Gory

I skip the next paragraph, and I come to page 42.

The poet's grave was found completely covered with refuse. Both steps leading down to the grave were destroyed. The area surrounding the grave was covered with rubbish, rubble, fragments of ikons and pieces of sheet metal.

I skip a paragraph.

The marble barrier around the monument has been bent out of shape and crumpled and damaged by shrapnel. The monument itself is inclined at an angle of 10 to 12 degrees towards the east, as a result of a landslide following the shelling, and of the shocks caused by the explosions.

The invaders knew perfectly well that on entering the Pushkinskiye Gory the officers and soldiers of the Red Army must first of all visit the grave of the poet, and therefore converted it into a trap for the patriots. Approximately 3000 mines were discovered on the ground of the monastery and in its vicinity.

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Among the grave crimes of the Hitlerites against culture, we can mention the destruction of works of art and architecture in the towns of Pavlovsk, Tzarskoe Selo, and Peterhof.

Great monuments of art and architecture of these towns, which have been turned into museum towns, are known throughout the world. These art and architecture monuments were created in the course of two centuries. They commemorate a whole series of the most outstanding events in the Russian history. Celebrated Russian and foreign architects, sculptors and artists created masterpieces which were kept in these town museums, and together with valuable masterpieces of Russian and world art had been blown up, burned or destroyed by the German vandals.

I submit as proof the document USSR-49, which includes a statement of the Extraordinary State Commission dated the 3rd of September, 1944. The excerpts are on page 332 of the document book.

I skip the end of page 43, and page 44, of this statement, and begin my quotation in the middle of page 45.

At the moment the German usurpers broke into Petrodvoretz, there still remained after the evacuation 34,214 various museum exhibits

(pictures, artistic masterpieces and sculptures), as well as 11,700 very valuable books from the palace libraries. In the ground floor rooms of the Ekaterininsky and Alexandrovsky palaces in the town of Pushkin there were concentrated the furniture of Russian and French workmanship of the middle of the Eighteenth Century, 600 items of artistic china of the late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, as well as a large number of marble busts, small objects of sculpture, and up to 35,000 volumes from the palace libraries.

On the basis of documentary material, the statements and testimony of eye witnesses, the evidence of German prisoners of war, and as a result of careful investigation, it has been ascertained that:

Breaking into Petrodvoretz on the 23rd of September 1941, the German usurpers immediately proceeded to loot the treasures of the palaces and museums, removing the contents of the palaces during several months.

From the big palace, Marly, Monplaisir and Cottage palaces, they looted and removed to Germany some 34,000 museum exhibits, among them 4,950 items of unique furniture of Italian, English, French, and Russian workmanship of the time of Cathrine the Great, Alexander I and Nicholas I, as well as many rare sets of porcelain of foreign and Russian manufacturers of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. The German barbarians stripped off the silk, tapestries and other decorative material which ornated the walls of the palace rooms.

In November, 1941, the Germans removed the bronze statue of Samson, which was the work of the sculptor Kozlovoky, and sent it to Germany.

Having looted the museum treasures, the Germans set fire to the big palace which was the work of a noted architect genius Bartholomeo Rastrelli.

Upon the withdrawal from Petrodvoretz, the Germans wrecked the Marly Palace with the aid fo delayed action mines. The palace contained the most delicate stucco mouldings and carvings.

The Germans wrecked the great Peter the Great dwelling. They destroyed all the wooden parts of the pavilions and galleries, the interior decoration of the study, the bedrooms and the Chinese rooms. During the occupation, they turned the central part of the palace, which is the most valuable from the

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historical and artistic point of view, into a D.O.T. In the western pavilion of the palace they established a stable and a latrine. In the premises of the Assembly Building, where balls were given for the great, the Germans tore up the floor, sawed through the beams, and destroyed the doors and window-frames and stripped the panelling of the ceiling.

I skip a paragraph and quote the last paragraph of the page.

In the northern part of the park, the so-called Alexandria Park, they blew up the Nicholas II's villa, completely destroyed the wooden officer's cottage, the Alexandrine gates, the pavilions of the Adam fountain, the pylon of the Chief gate of the Upper Park and the Rose pavilion.

The Germans wrecked the famous fountain system of the Petrodvoretz Parks. The damaged the pipe-line feeding the fountains along the whole extension from the "Rose-Pavilion" dam to the Upper Park.

After the occupation of new Petrodvoretz, units of the 291st German infantry division completely destroyed by the fire of heavy guns the famous English Palace at Old Petrodvoretz, built on Catherine II's orders by the architect Quarengi. The Germans fired 9,000 punds of heavy artillery ammunition; together with the Palace the picturesque English park and all the park pavilions were destroyed.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal has appreciated the successful efforts which the other members of the Soviet delegation have made to shorten their addresses, and they would be glad if you could possibly summarize some of the details with which you have to deal in the matter of destruction and spoliation and perhaps omit some of the details.

That is all for this morning.

(A recess was taken from 1245 to 1400 hours.)

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Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, Defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany, on 21 February, 1946, 1400-1700, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: The looting and destruction of the town of Pushkin was carried out on the orders of the highest German authorities. I omit the end of page 57 and the beginning of page 48.

The most important part of the Ekaterinsky Palace was burnt by the Germans. The famous 300 metre long series of State Halls, designed by Rastrelli, perished in the flames. The famous Ante-rooms ("waiting-halls") decorated by Rastrelli were ruined.

I omit one paragraph and continue:

The large Hall -- the creation of the genius Rastrelli, presents an awful picture. Destroyed were the unique ceilings, the work of Torelli, Giodiano, Brullov, and other famous Italian and Russian masters.

I omit one more paragraph:

One of Rastrelli's best creations which was ruined and pillaged, was the Palace Church, wonderful for its interior decoration.

I omit one more paragraph:

At the time of the retreat in January 1944, the German usurpers prepared the complete destruction of all that was left of Catherine's Palace and the adjoining buildings. For this purpose, on the ground floor of the still remaining part of the palace, as well as under the Cameron Gallery, 11 large delayed action aerial bombs were laid, weighing from one to three tons.

The Hitlerite bandits devastated in Pushkino the Alexandrovsky palace constructed at the end of the XVIII century by the famous architect Giacomo Quarengi.

I omit a paragraph:

All the museum furniture, stored in the basements of the Ekaterinsky and Alexandrovsky palaces, objects of artistic porcelain and books from the

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Palace libraries were transported to Germany.

I omit two paragraphs:

Destruction of Pavlovsky Palace in the town of Pavlovsk.

Ribbentrop's special purpose battalion and commandos of Rosenberg's staff shipped from Pavlovsky palace to Germany the palace furniture of great value, designed by Voronikhin and the greatest masters of the XVIIIth century.

I omit the end of page 49 and the beginning of page 50.

On retreating, the Fascist usurpers set fire to the Pavlovsky Palace. The greatest part of the Palace building was entirely burned down.

I omit the next paragraph and I quote the last paragraph, and conclude the last paragraph of this document.

The Extraordinary State Commission established that the destruction of art monuments in Petrodvorets, Pushkino and Pavlowsk was carried out by the officers and soldiers of the German army on the direct orders of the German Government and the High Command.

Destruction of Historic Monuments in the Ancient Russian Towns.

Many large towns were destroyed by the German fascist authorities in the USSR territories occupied by them. But they destroyed with particular ruthlessness the ancient Russian towns which contained monuments of ancient Russian art.

I give as an example and refer to the destruction of the cities of Novgorod, Pskov and Smolensk.

Novgorod and Pskov belong to those historical centers where the Russian people created the foundation of their state.

For centuries there flourished a highly developed and unique culture. It left a rich heritage which is a valuable possession of our people. Thanks to the survival of numerous monuments of ecclesiastic and civil architecture, murals, paintings, sculpture and handicraft, Novgorod and Pskov were rightly called cathedrals of Russian history.

I omit one paragraph of my presentation.

The Hitlerite barbarians destroyed in Novgorod many most valuable monuments of Russian art of international fame of the XIth - XIIth centuries.

H0066 - 0042

I omit the rest of this page and pass on to page 52. By way of proof, I shall read into the record some excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, which is presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 50. The members of the Tribunal will find this excerpt on page 1533 and 1534 in the document file. I read:

"...The ancient Russian city of Novgorod was turned into a pile of ruins by the German fascist invaders. They destroyed the historical monuments and dismantled some to use them for constructing fortifications..."

I omit one paragraph.

The German fascist barbarians destroyed and obliterated in Novgorod the greatest monuments of ancient Russian art. The fascists destroyed the vaults, walls and towers of the St. George Cathedral of the Yuryev Monastery. The cathedral was decorated with frescoes dating from the XIIth century and was built in the early part of the XIIth century.

The Cathedral of St. Sophia, builtin the XIth century, was one of the oldest monuments of Russian architecture, and an outstanding monument of world art. The Germans destroyed the building of this cathedral.

The Hitlerites robbed the cathedral of all interior decoration; carried off all the icons from the iconostases, and ancient incense-burners, amongst which was one which belonged to Boris Godunov.

The Church of the Annunciation, built on the 12th century foundations (crypt) with frescoes painted in the same century, was converted by the fascists into a fortified position and barracks.

The Church of the Assumption in the Bolotov Polye, a monument of Novgorod architecture of 14-15th century, was burned by the Germans into a heap of stones and bricks.

I omit one paragraph.

The Church of the Saviours-Transfiguration in the Ilyin Street was one of the best samples of Novgorod architecture of 14th century, specially famous for its frescoes painted in the same period by the great Byzantine master Feofan the Greek.

I omit the rest of this page and pass on to page 54.

H0066 - 0043

More than two years of Hitlerite misrule in Novgorod brought also the ruin of many other wonderful ancient Russian monuments...

By the order of the commanding general of the 18th German Army, Lt. General Lindeman, the German barbarians dismantled and prepared for removal to Germany the monument "The thousand years of Russia." This monument was erected in the Kremlin Square in 1862 and represented the main stages of the development of our land up to the sixties of the 19th century.....The Hitler barbarians dismantled the monument and smashed its statuary. They did not succeed, however, in sending it home to melt the metal down.

Dmitriev Youri Nikolaevich in his affidavit, gives a detailed account of the barbarous destruction of the monuments of ancient Russian art by the Germans in the towns of Novgorod and Pskov.

Citizen Dmitriev was in 1937 the custodian of the Ancient-Russian Art Division of the State Russian Museum of Leningrad.

He began the study of the historical monuments of Novgorod and Pskov in 1926. As a great expert in this field of art, he was asked, by the Extraordinary State Commission to participate in the investigation of the crimes of the German-fascist invaders.

The original copy of the depositions of the citizen Dmitriev was officially certified, and I present them to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 312. You will find it, your Honors, on page 335 and 337 in your document book.

H0066-0044

In submitting his affidavit, I will omit facts already known to the Tribunal from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission previously read into the record. I quote only a few short excerpts which will be found on page 336 and 339. Mr. Dmitriev deposed as follows:

"The greater part of Novgorod is rased to the ground, only in a few districts were some traces of ruins left by the Germans. The German also destroyed Pekov. During their retreat they blew up buildings and monuments there. Out of 88 buildings of historic and art value in Novgorod, there remain but two buildings which are only slightly damaged ... Only a few isolated monuments in Pskov were left undamaged.

The Germans deliberately destroyed in Novgorod and Pskov monuments of historic and art value."

And further:

"The German Army, while destroying and damaging monuments of historic and art value, plundered and carried off many works of art and valuable objects which were part of or housed in these buildings.

The German troops profaned and desecrated many ecclesiastic monuments of historic and art value in Novgorod and Pskov."

Daily for 26 months the Hitlerites methodically destroyed the most ancient of all Russian cities, Smolensk.

The Soviet prosecution has presented to the Tribunal Exhibit Document USSR-56, containing the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission.

I will merely refer to it and I shall try to relate in my own words the most essential points of this document which deals with the theme that I am presenting.

In Smolensk, the German fascist invaders plundered and destroyed the most valuable collections in the museums. They desecrated and burned ancient monuments; they destroyed schools and institutes, libraries, and hospitals. It is also mentioned in the report that in April 1943, the Germans needed gravel and bricks to pave roads. For this, they blew up the building of a high school; and the Germans burned down all of the libraries of the city, 22 schools, and in the libraries that were burned by the Germans, 646,000 volumes of books were destroyed.

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I now pass on to page 57.

In Smolensk, prior to the German occupation, there were four museums which had wonderful collections.

The art Museum had one of the most extensive collections, primarily of Russian historical, socological, and ethnographic treasures and other treasures. This collection was of international value. Then they were sent to France for exhibition. The invaders destroyed the museum and took the most valuable exhibits to Germany.

I shall quote only the last paragraph on page 57.

Rosenberg's main staff for the acquisition and export of valuables from the occupied regions of the East had a special branch in Smolensk, headed by Dr. Norling, the organizer of the plunder of museums and historical monumen Such are some of the numerous facts of the crimes committed by the fascist barbarians, which demonstrate how the criminal plans of the Hitlerite conspirators were actually carried out.

Destruction and Plunder of Cultural and Historical treasures and Cultural & Educational Establishments in Ukraine.

It is generally known with what ruthlessness and greed the German fascist invaders carried out the economic plunder of the Ukrainian population But the destruction and plunder of the Ukrainian cultural and historical treasures played no lesser part in the plans of Hitlerite conspirators, and was carried out with the same merciless zeal.

In accordance with their criminal plans for the enslavement of the freedor loving Ukrainian people, the Hitlerite conspirators endeavoured to annihilate its culture.

From the very first days of their incursion into Ukraine, the Hitlerites executing their criminal designs, embarked upon systematic destruction of schools, higher educational institutions, scientific instititutions, museums, libraries, clubs, theatres.

The historical and cultural treasures in the cities of Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa, in the Stalinsky and Rovenky provinces, and many other large and small towns, were subjected to destruction and plunder.

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From the document presented by the Soviet prosecution under #USSR-32, which contains the sentence pronounced by the Military Tribunal, of the 4th Ukrainian Front on 15-18 December 1943, it is evidently clear that the German fascist armies in the city of Kharkov in the Kharkov province, acting upon direct instructions of Hitler's Government, burnt and destroyed and plundered material and cultural treasures of the Soviet people. These excerpts, your Honors, you will find on page 359 in your document book.

Now I go on to the evidence of crimes committed by the Hitlerites in the capital of the Ukrainian Republic, i.e., in Kiev.

I quote one paragraph of thedocument presented by the Soviet prosecution under No. USSR-248. You will find it on page 363 in your document book, and it contains an extract from the records of the Extraordinary State Commission "about the destruction and plunder by the fascist aggressors of Kiev's Psychopathic Institute."

Amongst other destructions they - I quote:

"...burnt the archives of the Institute which were priceless from a scientific point of view, destroyed the first-class library of 20,000 volumes, plundered cultural reservation, a priceless monument of the XIth century, the famous Kirilovsky cathedral, which was on the grounds of the Institute..."

I next pass on to reading several excerpts from the Extraordinary State Commission's report which was presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 9. The quoted excerpts will be found on pages 365-366 of the Document Book.

"Before the German invasion there existed in Kiev 150 secondary and elementary schools."

"Out of this number, 77 schools were used by Germans as military barracks, 9 served as warehouses and workshops, two were occupied by military staffs, and eight were transformed into stables. At their retreat from Kiev, the German barbarians destroyed 140 schools.

I omit the next paragraph.

"The German invaders plundered more than 4,000,000 volumes from the books of the Kiev libraries. More than 320,000 various valuable and unique books, magazines and manuscripts were taken away to Germany by the Hitlerites from the library of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of

H0066 - 0047

Science."

I beg, Your Honors, to note that Dr. Foster, SS Obersturmfuehrer, who served in the special purpose battalion established on the initiative of the Defendant Ribbentrop and acting under his orders, testified about the plunder of the Library of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Science, in his deposition of 10 November 1942, already read into the record by me.

I omit one paragraph and pass on to further reading from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission.

"....On 5 September 1943, the Germans burnt and blew up one of the most ancient centres of the Ukrainian culture -- the Shevtchenko State University in Kiev, founded in 1834, and built after a design by the architect Beretti senior. In the fire perished the greatest cultural treasures, treasures which for centuries had represented the scientific and educational bases of the work of the university; gone, perished the inestimably valuable documents from the Archives of Ancient Manuscripts; perished the library containing 1,300,000 books, gone the Zoological Museum of the University with over 2 million exhibits and gone a whole series of other museums which were also destroyed.

...During the period of the occupation of the town, the German invaders also burned most of the institutions of higher learning, and the majority of the medical institutions.

In Kiev the fascist barbarians burned down the building of the Red Army Theater, the Theatrical Institute, the School of Music, where the instruments were burned together with the extremely wealth library and all the equipment; they blew up the beautiful building of the circus, holding 2,500 persons; they burned down, with its entire equipment, the "M.Gorki" Theater for Juvenile Audiences; they destroyed the Jewish Theater...In the Museum of Western European and Eastern Art only some large linen sheets had been left; the robbers had not had time to remove them from the high walls of the stairway shafts. From the Museum of Russian Art the Hitlerites carried off, together with all the other exhibits, a collection of Russian Ikons of inestimable value. They looted the Museum of Ukrainian Art; only 1,900 exhibits

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of the original 41,000 exhibits were left."

I omit the rest of this page and pass to page 62.

"The Hitlerites plundered the historical and the "T.G. Shevchenko" museums. They looted that greatest monument of the Slav people, - the Cathedral of St. Sophie, from which they removed fourteen XII th century frescoes."

I omit one paragraph.

"By order of the German Command the troops plundered, blew up and destroy the most ancient cultural monument - the Kievo-Pecherskaya Abbey ...

"The Uspenski Cathedral, built in 1075-1089 by the Grand Duke Svyatoslav and painted inside in 1897 by the well-known painter V.V. Vereshchiagin, was blown up by the Germans on 3 November 1941."

I omit the rest of page 62 and pass on to page 63.

"One cannot view" - reported Nicholas, Metropolitan of the Kiev and Galician diacese and Member of the Extraordinary State Commission - "without sorrow, the heaps of rubble of the Uspenski Cathedral, created in the 11th century by the genius of its immortal builders. The explosions formed several huge craters in the area surrounding the Cathedral, and beholding them, it would appear that the very earth had shuddered at the sight of atrocities committed by those who no longer had any right to be called human beings. It was as if a terrific hurricane had rushed over the Cathedral, overturning everything, scatter ing and destroying the mighty buildings of the Cathedral, for over two years Kiev lay chained in the German shackles. The German executioners brought with them death to Kiev, together with ruin, famine and executions. In time allthis will pass out of the recent - into the far distant past, but never will the people of Russia and the Ukraine, or honest men all over the world, ever forget these crimes.

Mr. President, may I quote two more documents.

The first document, No. 035-PS, is entitled:

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"a brief report on security measures of the main working group of the Ukraine during the retreat of the Armed Forces." It was presented to the Tribunal by our American colleagues on the 18 December 1945. Characteristic peculiarity: the document testifies without decorum to the looting; it is clear to any one that reference is made to a group of robbers, although the Hitlerites still persist in calling robbery work; the most valuable exhibits of the Ukrainian Museum they shipped to Germany as "Miscellaneous Textiles."

The report begins with description of creating a safe corner for Einsatzstab establishments, for the purpose of which inhabitants of a whole district were thrown out of their flats and apartments and then follows a list of removed booty from plundered museums of Kharkov, Kiev, archives and even house libraries, and private libraries.

I shall quote only one brief excerpt from this document, which deals with the materials of the Ukraine and prehistorical museums of Kiev. You will find this excerpt on page 368 in the document book. I read:

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"1. October 1943. Materials of the Ukrainian Museum in Kiev.

"On the basis of the General evacuation orders of the city commissioner, the following were found by us and loaded for shipment to Krakau:

Textiles of all sorts

Collections of valuable embroidery patterns

Collections of brocades

Numerous items of wood, etc.

"Moreover an essential part of the prehistoric museum was transported away."

The second document, No. 1109-PS, is entitled, "Notes for leading group P4" and is addressed to von Mile Schroden. This document was also presented to the Tribunal by the American delegation on 18 December 1945, but it wasn't read into the record. Therefore, with your permission, I shall quote what is really a short excerpt. This excerpt you will find on page 369 of the document book. I read.

"2. The Removal of Cultural Property.

"A great deal of material from museums, archives, institutions and other cultural institutions was taken out of and away from Kiev in the autumn of 1943 in the proper way.

"These actions to safeguard the material were carried out by the Special Purpose Staff RR -- "

Here I must point out Einsatzstab Rosenberg in some document is also referred to as the Staff of Penetration. Those initials mean Reichsleiter Rosenberg.

"These actions to safeguard the material were carried out by the Special Purpose Staff RR as well as by the individual institute directors etc. at the instigation of the Reich Commissar.

"At the beginning a great deal of the evacuated property was taken only to the rear areas; later on this material was forwarded to the Reich. When the undersigned, towards the end of September, received the mission from the cultural division of the Reich Commissar to take out of Kiev the remaining cultural effects, the most worth while materials from the cultural point of view has already been removed. During October some 40 carloads of cultural effects were

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shipped to the Reich.

"In this case it was chiefly a question of valuables which belonged to the research institutions of the national Research Centre of the Ukraine. These institutions are continuing their work at the present time in the Reich and are being directed in such a manner that at a given moment they can be brought back into the Ukraine. The cultural valuables which could not be promptly safe-guarded were plundered. In this case, it was always a question, however, of less valuable material, as the principal valuables were taken away in accordance with orders.

"In October 1943 factory, workshop, etc. plants were taken out of Kiev by order of the Military Commander of the town, but to what place they were removed I do not know.

"At the time of the entry of Soviet Russia there was nothing valuable in this respect left in the city."

May it please Your Honors, from the documents submitted by the Soviet Prosecution, the Tribunal has already learned about the criminal conspiracy between Hitler and Antonescu. As a reward for supplying Germany with cannon-fodder, oil, wheat, cattle, etc., Antonescu's criminal clique received from Hitler's government an authorization to plunder the civilian population between the Bug and the Dniestr. German and Rumanian invaders plundered and destroyed many objects of cultural value, health resorts, and medical institutions in Odessa. The Hitlerites plundered, with Antonescu's clique, and they also plundered by themselves. To prove this, I will now read into the record a few excerpts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented to the Tribunal as Exhibit USSR-47. These excerpts are taken from page 372 of your document book. I omit one paragraph and begin:

"The German Military Command plundered the museums of Odessa, carrying away hundreds of unique objects," and so forth.

I omit here two paragraphs, and I refer to the last line of the page:

"According to their plan drawn up long in advance, the German Fascist conspirators destroyed or blew up 2290 of the largest buildings of architectural and historical value. Included in this were the House of Pushkin, the Saban barracks, built in 1827, and other representative monuments of the material

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cultural of the beginning of the 19th century.

"The German-Rumanian invaders destroyed in Odessa: The first hospital for contageous diseases, the second district, the somatological, the psychiatric and two children's hospitals, a children's out-patient clinic, seven well-baby clinics, 55 cribs, two maternity homes, a tuberculosis sanatorium, one leprosarium, six out-patient clinics, and the following research institutes: for the study of tuberculosis, for research into health resorts, and others. They destroyed 29 sanatoriums lovated around Odessa."

The Hitlerites committed crimes on an exceptionally large scale in the Stalino region.

I omit the rest of this page and pass to page 68. The report of the Extraordinary State Commission, which was presented by the Soviet Prosecution as Exhibit USSR 2, relates an enormous number of facts. I shall not quote all of those, Your Honors, but I shall confine myself only to several excerpts from the above mentioned document which have not been read into the record by my colleagues. They can be found on pages 374 and 375 in your document book.

"At their retreat from Stalino, the Hitlerites completely destroyed 113 schools, 62 kindergartens, 390 shops, the Winter and the Summer Theatres with 1,100 seats, the Palace of the Pioneers, radio-theatre, the Museum of the Revolution, the Picture Gallery, Dzerjinsky Club and several other of the best town buildings.

"Special detachments of engineers went from one school to another, spreading incendiary liquid and setting fire to them. The Soviet people who tried to extinguish the fires were shot on the spot by the Fascist bandits.

"Irreparable damages were caused by the occupation authorities to the medical establishments of the town."

I omit three paragraphs of the report, and I quote the two last paragraphs on this page:

"The destruction of the hospitals was carried out under the instructions and with the participation of the Chief Medical officer of the Military Hospital, Trommer, and the Deputy of the City Commandant, the Military Advisor, Narouschat. The Medical Institute, a first class scientific establishment for 2,000 students, was plundered on the orders of the Oberfeldartzt Roll, the Chief Medical Officer,

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Belindorf, and the Chief Physician Kuchendorf.

"530,000 volumes of the total 600,000 books of scientific and art literature, were burned by the Hitlerites."

Im all the industrial cities of Stalinsky province, the Hitlerites burned down schools and theaters, destroyed creches and hospitals and even churches.

I shall not enumerate it all. The facts were enumerated in a document which, as provided by Article 21 of the Charter, is irrefutable evidence, and in accordance with the Tribunal's ruling, does not have to be read into the record in full, but I must draw your attention to the fact that Stalinsky province, the Hitlerites burned down schools, and theatres destroyed creches and hospitals, and churches. Thus, in the town of Gorlovka:

"They destroyed 32 schools, attented by some 21,649 pupils, burned down the town hospital, five polyclinics, a church and the Palace of Culture."

I omit the next paragraph of the report.

In the city of Konstantinovka:

"The occupation authorities blew up and burned all the 25 city schools, two movie theatres, the principal city library with 35,000 volumes, the club of the pioneers."

Before their retreat from Mariupol:

"The German occupation authorities burned down all the 68 schools of the city, 17 kindergartens, the Palace of the Pioneers."

I now pass on to quoting a few excerpts from the document which was presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 45. These excerpts can be found on page 378 in the document book. The document deals with the Hitlerite crimes in Rovno and the Rovno region. I omit part of page 69 and pass on to page 70.

The city of Rovno was especially important. It was the residence of the Reichsminister Erich Koch, closest collaborator of the defendant Rosenberg. Numerous conferences of the Hitlerite leaders for working out in detail the plans for the enslavement of the Ukrainian people, took place in this city.

The above mentioned report of the Extraordinary State Commission establishes the following:

"On the Ukrainian territory seized by them, the Hitlerite bandits endeavoured to establish a regime of slavery and serfdom and to annihilate the

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Ukrainian culture and exterminate the leading representatives of Ukrainian art and science who fell into their hands."

I omit two paragraphs, and I quote:

"The German Fascist aggressors closed down nearly all the cultural and educational establishments in Rovno. On 30 November 1941 the closing down of schools in the General-Kommissariat of Volyn and Podo was officially announced by the newspaper "Volyn'."

I omit the ending of page 70, and I quote the last paragraph of this document, which appears in the text of my presentation, page 71:

"The fact that all these crimes were committed in the residence of the former Reichskommissar for Ukraine, Erich Koch, serves as additional proof that all the crimes of the Hitlerite bandits were perpetrated in execution of a plan for the extermination of the Soviet people and the devastation of the Soviet territories temporarily occupied by the Hitlerites, a plan which had been conceived and worked out by the Hitlerite government."

Destruction and Plunder of Cultural Treasures of the Capital of Byelorussian Republic, the City of Minsk:

In Section 5 of his opening statement, General Rudenko, the Chief Prosecutor for the USSR, quoted an extract from a letter in the documents of the German commissar for Beylorussia Kube, addressed to the defendant Rosenberg.

This document is a typewritten letter, signed in ink by Kube. It has several notations in pencil, evidently by the hand of Rosenberg, and it has a stamp, "Ministerial Bureau", and the date 3 October 1941. This document, which is identified as 1099 PS, I present to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 374 as proof of the enormous proportions of the plunder of historical treasures by the Hitlerites.

I shall quote in addition several other extracts from the document which also discloses the fact that the plundered treasures were shipped not only to Germany, but were also stolen by individual generals of Hitler's army.

Kube's letter reveals also the existence of a previously worked out plan for the plunder of cultural treasures of Leningrad, Moscow and the Ukrainian cultural centers. The vandalism of the Hitlerites reached such proportions that even Kube, this hangman of the Byelorussian people, protested. He was afraid to miss some chance of profit and negotiated with Rosenberg for a compensation

H0066 - 0055

I quote the second paragraph from the beginning of the letter:

"Minsk had a large, in part very valuable, collection of art treasures and painting, which were removed almost in their entirety. On an order of the Reichsfuehrer SS, Reichsleiter Heinrich Himmler, most of the paintings, some still during my term of office, were packed by the SS and shipped to the Reich. They are worth several millions of marks and were all taken from the general district of Byelorussia. These paintings were supposedly sent to Linz and to Koenigsberg in East Prussia. I beg to have this valuable collection, insofar as they are not needed in the Reich, again placed at the disposal of the general district of Byelorussia. In any case, however, to have the money value secured for the Ministry of the Occupied Eastern Territories."

Kube, as well as the defendant Rosenberg, also decided that the right to the stolen treasures was his monopoly and complained that-- and I quote the second part of the second paragraph of this letter:

"General Stubenrauch has taken a valuable part from Minsk with him up to the front. 'Sonderfurheres' whose names have not yet been reported to me, have carried away furniture, paintings and art objects in three trucks."

Having robbed, together with other Fascist leaders, the people of Byelorussia, having taken a direct part in mass ill treatment and extermination of the Soviet population, Kube hypocritically declared -- and I quote the last paragraph of this letter:

"Byelorussian, already rather poor, has suffered a heavy loss through these actions."

And Kube recommended to Rosenberg:

"It is possible that specialists should be appointed beforehand for directing these measures in Leningrad and Moscow, as well as in some of the ancient Ukrainian cultural centers."

That is where their desires were directed. It is now universally known what meaning the Hitlerites gave to the word "measures" as applied to the occupied territories. It meant a regime of bloody terror, violence and unrestricted plunder and despotism.

Having burst into Minsk, the capital of the Byelorussian Republic, the German Fascist plunderers tried to annihilate the culture of the Byelorussian

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people and transfer them into obedient German slaves.

As has been established by special investigations, the Hitlerite military authorities, acting on direct orders, from the German government, destroyed relentlessly scientific research institutes and schools, theaters and clubs, hospitals and polyclinics, kindergartens and creches.

I am reading into the record an excerpt from the document which was presented by the Soviet Prosecution as USSR Exhibit 38.

"For three years the German Fascist invaders set themselves systematically to destroy the scientific research institutes, institutions of higher education, libraries, museums, institutions of the Academy of Sciences, theaters and clubs of Minsk.

"The Lenin library in Minsk was the creation of more

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than twenty years. In 1932 the construction of a new building with a large, well-equipped book depository was completed. The Germans carried away from the library to Berlin and Koenigsberg one and a half million most valuable volumes, including many on the history of Byelorussia."

I omit the remainder of the page.

"In the effort to eradicate the culture of the Byelorussian people, the German-Fascist invaders destroyed all the cultural and educational institutions in Minsk."

"The libraries of the Academy of Sciences, of the State University, of the Polytechnic Institute, the Scientific Medical Library and the Pushkin City Public Library were all carried away to Germany.

"The Hitlerites destroyed the Byelorussian State University, the Zoological, Geological-Mineralogical, and Historic-Archaeological Museums, and the Medical Institute with all its clinics. They demolished the Academy of Sciences with its nine Institutes."

I omit the remainder of this paragraph.

"Likewise they destroyed the State Art Gallery and carried away to Germany canvasses and sculptures by Russian and Byelorussian masters. They plundered the State Byelorussian Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the First Byelorussian Drama Theater, the House of Folk Art, and the Houses of the Unions of Writers Artists and Composers.

"The Fascists destroyed in Minsk 47 schools, 24 kindergartens, the Palace of Pioneers, two lying-in homes, three children's hospitals, five city polyclinics, 27 nurseries, four children's welfare centers and the Institute of Infant and Maternity Welfare."

The Prosecution has at its disposal document No. 072-PS, which is a report of the German corporal, Abel, on Minsk Libraries. This corporal had examined all Minsk libraries and says in his report that almost all were destroyed. I present it as documentary evidence as USSR 375.

I consider that it will be sufficient to read into the record separate excerpts from this report. There is no necessity for reading the whole report on page 75 of my presentation.

"The Lenin library was the central Byelorussian library. It is difficult to draw up an exact inventory of the volumes, but the number of books was

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approximately 1,500,000. The book shelves are in a sad state."

I omit two paragraphs of my presentation, and I read further:

"The library of the Polytechnical Institute, which was in the basement of the left wing, was considerably plundered and put into disorder, as well as a great number of laboratories."

The report concludes with the following sentence, which I quote:

"The purpose of this report can only be reached by presenting it for consideration to the Supreme Command which would issue appropriate orders forbidding clearly the German soldier to behave in future like a barbarian."

But such orders were never issued--could never have been issued, because fascism is inseparable from barbarism; in fact, fascism means barbarism.

THE PRESIDENT: What were you proposing to do after the adjournment this afternoon?

COLONEL RAGINSKY: After the presentation, I would like to present several written documents pertaining to the destruction of cultural monuments of Lithuania, Esthonia and Latvia, and later, with the permission of the Tribunal, I intend to present a documentary film, toward the end of the session. All of my presentation of evidence would be finished.

THE PRESIDENT: How long will the film take?

COLONEL RAGINSKY: The presentation of the documentary film will take about 30 to 35 minutes.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't you think that after the vast amount of damage and spoliation to which you have drawn our attention in some detail, that it would be sufficient if you were to summarize by telling us the countries in which similar spoliation had taken place?

It is difficult to assimilate all this vast amount of detail.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: I have in mind, Mr. President, to present to the Tribunal the documents which will serve as a resume, where all the general totals will be given.

THE PRESIDENT: Very well. We will adjourn now for ten minutes.

(A recess was taken.)

COLONEL RAGINSKY: I wish to draw the attention of the Tribunal to the fact that before presenting the conclusion of this document I would like to quote a German document referring to the subject.

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Having occupied the Lithuanian, Esthonian, and Latvian Soviet Republics, the German-Fascist invaders attempted to turn the Soviet Baltic Provinces into a German colony, and to enslave the people of these republics. The criminal design of the Hiterite government fuund its full expression in universal plunder, general ruin, ciolence, and mockeries in mass murder of old men, women, and children.

In order to germanize the people of the Lithùnian, Esthonian, and Latvian Soviet Socialist Republics,, the Hitlerites destroyed by every possible means the culture of the peoples of these Republics.

I skip the remainder of this page, page seventy-seven, page seventy-eight, and on page seventy-nine I quote only one paragraph.

The capital of Soviet Latvia, Riga, was declared by the occupants the capital of "Ostland" (Eastern Territory) and the seat of Rosenberg's Staff. Among the documents presented to the Tribunal by the Soviet prosecution as USSR Exhibit 7, USSR Exhibit 39, and USSR Exhibit 41, there are a number of facts and documents which establish the crimes perpetrated by the Hitlerites in the Soviet Baltic provinces. Among these crimes against the peoples of the Baltic provinces, --I read page eighty-one of the statement.

The Defendant Rosenberg played a major part.

Defendant Rosenberg, the former Reichsminister, for the Eastern territorit; even at a time when it became evident that Fascist Germany was facing defeat, when the hour of just and stern redemption approached, the defendant Rosenberg pursued his plunderings.

As late as the end of August 1944, Rosenberg organized and executed the plundering of cultural resources of Riga and Revel, Derpt, and a series of other towns of the Estònian Republic.

I draw the attention of the Tribunal to document No. 161-PS, dated the 23rd of August 1944, entitled "instruction" and signed by Rosenberg's Chief of Staff, Utikal.

This document is submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 376, which the Tribunal will find on page 400. I quote:

"On the 21st of August, 1944, the Reichsleader, Alfred Rosenberg, summoned from the headquarters of the Chief of Staff, Friedrich Schiller, to report on the existing possibilities for the evacuation of culturaltreasures from the

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Eastern territories. On the basis of this report, the Reich leader decided that the most precious cultural riches of the Ostland could still be evacuated by his staff, insofar as it is possible without detriment to the needs of the field troops. The Reichsleiter considers the following specially important:

"From Riga - the City's archives

- the state archives (the major part in Rawalene).

"From Reval - the City's archives

- the Esthonian Library Society, small articles from the town hall.

"From Dorpat - items from the Evangelical Lutheran consistory and the church of St. Nicholas

- the University library.

"From Esthonian treasures - items which were in Erlen, Wodya, Weissenstein, Lachmess,

- the removal operations are entrusted to the Chief of the Mobilization Department, Schiller, as the future head of the main oprational group 'Ost' of Rosenberg's Staff.

"He is advised to maintain special contact with group 'North' in order to coordinate the execution of the tasks imposed by the Reichsleiter with the transportation requirements of the field forces."

I would like to draw the attention of the Tribunal to another peculiar circumstance.

In this case the looting was carried out by Rosenberg together with high command and even in the fall of 1944 future chiefs of staff of Rosenberg's were selected.

An analysis of all these circumstances allows us to reassert [illegible] categorical by that destruction and looting of cultural treasures was inspired.

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directed, and carried out by one central organization, and that this central organization was the criminal Hitlerite Government and the High Command, the representatives of which, in the persons of all the Defendants before this Tribunal should suffer punishment in accordance with Article 6 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

May it please your Honors, when we deal with a system of wholesale destruction and plunder it is impossible and hardly necessary to enumerate all the facts, even if these facts are in themselves of great importance.

In the occupied territories of the Soviet Union the Hitlerites carried out precisely such a system of wholesale and many-folded destruction and plunder of cultural treasures of the peoples of the USSR. At this moment it is not yet possible to draw up a final balance of the Defendants' crimes.

I will, with the permission of the Tribunal, quote a document containing data which, although only preliminary, is absolutely accurate, and which bears witness to the tremendous damage inflicted by the Hitlerites.

I have in view the Report of the Extraordinary State Commission, submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 35. This document is on pages 404 and 405 of the document book. I will quote from this only a single excerpt concerning the subject which I am presenting, and which has not yet been read into the record.

Destruction of Cultural and Communal Institutions, Social Organizations and Co-operatives.

I skip one paragraph and quote only the numerical data. They destroyed over 87,000 industrial buildings belonging to co-operatives, trade unions, and other social organizations; 10,000 residential buildings, and 1,839 cultural institutions. They evacuated to Germany about 8,000,000 books--volumes.

From the property of the trade unions the German invaders completely destroyed 120 sanatoria and 150 convalescent homes, in

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which more than 3,000,000 workers, engineers, technicians, and other employees received treatment and rest every year. Of this total figure they destroyed 59 sanatoria and convalescent homes, with 11,900 beds in the Caucasian tourist centers; 32 sanatoria and convalescent houses in the Leningrad area; 88 sanatoria and convalescent homes in the Ukraine.

The German-Fascist invaders destroyed the buildings of 46 pioneers' and children's summer camps belonging to the trade unions. They destroyed 189 clubs and palaces of culture.

I skip a paragraph and quote the last paragraph of this page.

In that territory of the Soviet Union which was occupied by the Germans, there were, at the beginning of 1941, 82,000 elementary and secondary schools with 15,000,000 pupils. All secondary schools possessed libraries, each with from 2000 to 25,000 volumes, many schools possessed physics, chemistry, biology and other classrooms. The German Fascist usurpers entirely or partially destroyed 334 universities at which 233,000 students were studying, and evacuated to Germany the equipment of the laboratories and lecture rooms and the rarities from the collections of the universities and institutes, as well as the libraries.

Great damage was inflicted to the medical colleges. The occupants destroyed or looted 137 pedagogical and teachers' institutes. They removed from the special libraries historical archives and old manuscripts, and stole or destroyed in the public libraries over 100 million volumes.

I skip the next paragraph altogether.

They destroyed 605 scientific research institutes.

I skip the end of the page and the first paragraph of page 86.

Enormous damage was inflicted by the Germans to the spas of the Soviet Union. They destroyed or plundered 6000 hospitals, 33,000 polyclinics, dispensaries and ambulatories, 976 snatoria and 656 convalescent homes.

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I skip the next paragraph and quote that part entitled, "Destruction of Museums and Historical Monuments."

The German Fascist usurpers destroyed 427 out of a total of 992 museums of the Soviet Union.

I skip the end of this page and quote the beginning of page 87.

The Germans also destroyed the museum of the peasant poet S. D. Drobshshin in the village of Zavidovo, the museum of the popular poet I. S. Nikitin at Voronesh and the museum of the famous Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz at Novogrudek in the White Russian S.S.R. At Alagir they burned the manuscripts of the Ossetian popular singer, Kosta Khetagurov.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed 44,000 theatres, clubs and so-called "Red Corners."

Now, with the permission of the Tribunal, I would like to submit a documentary film and a certificate certifying to the documentary character of this film. The film is entitled, "The Destruction of Works of Art and of Museums of National Culture Perpetrated by the Germans on the Territory of the U.S.S.R." This film, and the documents which certify the documentary character of these reels, are submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 98. In this film, besides documentary photographs which were taken from 1941 to 1945, there are also extracts out of a film which was made in 1908 and which shows the estate of Tolstoy and his wife; and further pictures show what the Germans did to the monuments of culture of the Soviet people.

May I proceed with the presenting of the film?

(The film entitled, "The Destruction of Works of Art and of Museums of National Culture Perpetrated by the Germans on the Territory of the U.S.S.R." was shown by the Soviet Union.)

I must now dwell, your Honors, on one more category of crimes committed by the Hitlerites--the spoliation and destruction of churches, convents, and other places of religious observances.

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Whilst destroying monasteries, churches, synagoges and Moslem places of worship, the German usurpers sadistically mocked the religious feelings of the people.

These blasphemous crimes were systematically perpetrated on the whole of the territory temporarily under German rule.

Soldiers and officers organised bloody orgies in places of worship, kept horses and dogs in churches, put on church vestments, and made bunks for sleeping out of ikons.

I won't read all the numerous documents which are at the disposal of the Soviet Prosecution, and shall only dwell on some of them, in particular, documentary photographs. I present an album of those photographs, as document number USSR-99.

In the statement of the People's Commissar, V. M. Molotov, of 27.IV 42, which has already been presented to the Tribunal as document number USSR-51/3, and extracts from which I have already quoted, it is stated--page 321 of the document book:

"The Hitlerite invaders do not spare the religious sentiments of believers among the Soviet population. They have burnt, looted, blown up and defiled hundreds of churches on Soviet territory, including several irreplaceable monuments of ancient church architecture."

I skip two paragraphs.

From the village of Iklinskoye in the Moscow region, the Reverend Amvrosy Ivanov writes:

"Before the arrival of the Germans the church was in complete order. At the command of a German officer I had to take everything out of the church ... The troops arrived at night, occupied the church, brought their horses in ... Then they began to smash and break everything in the church and to build bunks. They threw out everything: the altar, the holy doors and banners, the vestments. In a word, the church was turned into a thieves' den."

I skip a paragraph at page 88, page 89

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In the village of Gosteshevo the Germans plundered the church, smashed the holy banners, threw the books about, robbed the Reverend Mikhail Strakhov and led him off with them to another district. In the village of Kholm, near Mozhaisk, the Germans robbed and beat up an 82-year old local clergyman. In retreating from Mozhaisk the Germans blew up the Church of the Ascension, Trinity Church and the Cathedral of Nicholas the Miracle Worker. As a rule, before their retreat , the Germans would drive part of the population of villages that they had destroyed by fire into houses of worship, lock the people up in them and then set fire to these buildings."

I am now quoting a short excerpt from USSR Document No.312, submitted to the Tribunal.

"In a side-altar of the Znamensky Cathedral, the Germans set up a lavatory for the soldiers who lived in the crypt of the Cathedral.

"The Church of the Prophet Elijah in the Slavna was transformed into a stable.

"The following Pskov churches were also transformed into stables: Bogoyavlenie on Zapskovie, Kozma and Demian on the Gremiatchy Hill, Constantin and Helen, and the Church of St. John the Evangelist."

The document, Exhibit USSR 279, which is presented to the Tribunal, describes facts of blasphemous mockery which took place in the town of Gjatsk where the churches were transformed by the Germans into stables and warehouses.

The German-fascist invaders completely destroyed or partly damaged 1670 churches, 69 chapels, 237 Roman Catholic cathedrals, 4 mosques, 532 synagogues and 254 other ecclesiastical buildings.

I will now read into the record an excerpt from this document:

"No monetary compensation by the Germans can ever make good the destruction of ecclesiastical buildings, the most ancient historical monuments, as the majority of them can never be restored.

The old Borisoglebsky cathedral in Chernigov, built at the beginning of the XIIth century is largely destroyed. In the same town the church of "Paraskeva-Piatnitza at the Market " -- the most precious monument of XIIth century Russian architecture, is completely destroyed. The Germans set up an

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observation post in the Uspensky cathedral of the XIIth century of the Eletsky monastery and cut embrasures into the walls of that ancient cathedral.

The Spaso-Preobrashensky cathedral in Chernigov, built in 1070, was damaged by enemy bombardment.

The Polotzky cathedral of the Efrosinyev monastery, built in 1160, was badly damaged by explosions and bombardment by the Germans.

Enormous, almost irreparable destruction was caused to the famous Novo-Ierusalimsky and Iossifo-Volokolamsky monasteries in the Moskow region. The former was founded by Patriarch Nikon in 1656 and its founder intended it to be the symbol of the political power, the peculiar culture and the independence of the Russian state. The second was founded at the end of the XVth century. Both monasteries were not only destroyed, but looted as well.

An indescribable devastation was caused to the Tikhvinsky monastery in the Leningrad region. Three ancient churches and five wings of the monastery were blown up, to conceal the traces of plunder.

Such antiquities as the cathedral of the Kirillov monastery, built in the XIIth century, the church of Nikola "at the Lipka" built in the XIII century, the Church of the Annunciation "at the Gorodistche" dating from the XIII century, were completely destroyed by aimed artillery fire.

Enormous destruction was caused by Germans to the five churches, which were part of the Pskov-Pechersky monastery, the most precious monuments among the ancient Russian monasteries, reflecting in themselves the period of development of the Pskov architecture built in the XVIth century by serf labor.

Many ancient churches, monuments of olden days, were destroyed by the German invader in Byelo-Russia; Then in the town of Vitebsk was destroyed the church of Nativity, an interesting monument of Byelorussian architecture of the XVIIth century. Completely destroyed were the wooden Bogoslovskaya and Nikolskaya churches, built in the XVIIIth century.

In the Church of the Annunciation the Germans set up a slaughter

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house for cattle.

The document which I am now presenting to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 246 is a report of the Extraordinary State Commission and contains general data as to the churches, chapels and other buildings of religious worship which have been destroyed or damaged. This document states the German Fascist invaders completely destroyed or partly damaged 1670 churches, 69 chapels, 237 Roman Catholic cathedrals, four mosques, 532 synagogues and 254 other ecclesiastical buildings and buildings of religious worship.

You will find in the document submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 305, further data on the subject. I will not quote the document in full, but I would like to quote a few very short excerpts from this paper:

"Material or monetary compensation by the Germans can never make good the destruction of ecclesiastical buildings, the most ancient historical monuments, for the majority of them can never be restored."

Skipping the remaining part of the page, as well as the first four paragraphs of page 91 of the statement, I read the last paragraph pf page 91:

"Many ancient churches, monuments of an older day, were destroyed by the German invader in Byelo-Russia. Then in the town of Vitebsk was destroyed the Church of the Nativity, an interesting example of Byelo-Russian architecture of the XVIIth century. Completely destroyed were the wooden Bogoslovskaya and Nikolskaya churches, built in the XVIIIth century.

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"Irreparable damage was done to the Voskresensko-Zarutonly church which was built in the 18th Century. The architecture of this church was an interesting example Rxelo-Russian classicism. The Germans also destroyed there, in the town of Vitebsk, a Roman Catholic church which was built in the 18th century.

"The Germans burnt in the town of Disna, in the Polotsk region, a roman Catholic church founded in the 17th century and plundered the property which it contained.

"Timoshel Rudolf, the German Garrison Commandant of the town of Roznmiatov, in the Stanislav region, used three synagogues for barracks and later on destroyed the buildings after having plundered the property contained therein."

I skip the next paragraph.

"Before destroying buildings of religious worship the Germans plundered and destroyed all their equipment. A great number of icons and church-plate was removed to Germany.

"The Yossifo-Volokalamsky monastery was plundered and the ancient shrouds of the monastry and the personal belongings of Joseph Wolotsky, the founder of the monastry, have desappeared.

The Germans tore off the gold plate from the icons of the Tikhvinsky church, removed all vessels all crosses, crowns, mitres and tabernacles."

"In 1941 German soldiers and officers stole from the Staritzki Church all the vessels, altar crosses, crowns, miters, and tabernacles.

"In the town of Dokshitz in the Polotzk region, the Germans looted and took away all the property of the local mosque. The same fate was shared by nearly all the churches in the territory occupied by the Germans.

"Everywhere the Germans plundered Greek orthodox and Roman Chatholic churches, synagogues, mosques and other buildings of religious worship. The Hitlerite conspirators did not only actually plunder, torture and murder, but they also tried to humiliate believers morally, to rob them of spiritual riches."

This is the documentary evidence concerning the crimes against culture, which were committed by Rosenberg, Frank, Goering, Ribbentrop, Keitel and the other members of the conspiracy.

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The crimes of the defendants against culture are indeed horrible by their consequences. If one can build certain towns and villages destroyed by Hitlerites, it is also possible to restore factories and plants which were blown up or burned by them. But mankind has lost forever the unique objects of art which the Hitlerites destroyed in a barbarous manner. The lost of lives to mankind of people whom they put to death in Auschwitz, or in Treblink, or in Babiy-yar, or in Kertch can never again be replaced.

Having taken their fiendish theories from the dark ages of the past, these modern Huns have put into shade the blackened pages of history by their appalling cruelty and vandalism. They arrogantly challenge future mankind. They trampled underfooth the best heritage of mankind's past. Attesting no ideals or faith themselves, they sacreligously destroyed churches and relics.

However, the struggle between culture and obscurantism, between civilization and barbarism, culture and civilization were victorious. The Hitlerite conspirators who dreamt of world domination, of the destruction of culture of the Slav and other peoples, are now in the defendant's dock. May a just punishment be theirs, and may their punishment be immediate.

THE PRESIDENT: Will you continue until five o'clock.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: If the Tribunal wishes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, will you go on until five o'clock.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: I would like to be accorded a short recess in order to present the document.

THE PRESIDENT: It would be hardly worth while if you want a short interval. We shall stop at five o'clock.

COLONEL RAGINSKY: It would be more convenient to begin the next statement tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now, then.

(The Tribunal adjourned until 22 February, 1946 at 1000 hours)